

## THE PIONEER: P. N. KAULA (1924-2009)

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### ABSTRACT

This paper intends to provide a brief biography as well as intellectual contributions made by Prof. P. N. Kaula in the field of Librarianship and Library and Information Science. It also discusses at length his academic distinctions and achievement both national and international level. The article is a formal attempt to acknowledge his genius as founding fathers of Librarianship in India along with his Guru Dr. S. R. Ranganathan.

**KEYWORDS:** Kaula, P. N. Kaula, Library and Information Science, Librarianship in India

### INTRODUCTION

Born in Habbakadal, small vicinity in the city of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India, on March 13, 1924, Prithvi Nath Kaula received his early education at DAV School, Srinagar. Soon after, he joined S. P. College, Srinagar for his graduation degree. Then, he moved initially to Madras and subsequently to Varanasi, where he got his Diploma Degree in Library Science from BHU, Varanasi and later in 1949, he was the first to receive the Master's Degree in Library Science from University of Delhi under Dr. Ranganathan and secured first position.



Prof. P. N. Kaula

### EARLY CAREER

He started his career as a Librarian at DAV College, Srinagar in the year 1944. Later, he worked hard to put into practice that he learnt from Dr. Ranganathan. Kaula was the first Librarian in the Kashmir State in 1945 who introduced "Open Access" and "long reading hours" for the users of the Library, although he was a librarian without training in the art of Librarianship at that time. [1]

Prof. Kaula left DAV College, Srinagar in 1947 and joined the Birla Central Library, Pilani, Rajasthan on October 31, 1947. [2]

Prof. Kaula has also worked as Technical Assistant at Delhi University Library during 1948-1950. During these days, he was also instrumental in providing every kind of improvement in the library of Delhi College, now known as Zakir Husain College. In 1951, he joined as Librarian in the Ministry of Labour. It was the same time when he was

approached by Prof. Bashiruddin to start a School of Library Science at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. With the intervention of Dr. Zakir Husain, the then Vice Chancellor of AMU, he was given some time from the Ministry to organize a course for Certificate in Library Science. By the time, he was acting as a Visiting Lecturer in AMU till 1958. [3]

It was the year 1955, when Prof. Kaula established School of Library Science of the Delhi Library Association. Then, in 1958, he appointed as first full time Reader in the Department of Library Science at University of Delhi. [4]

It was the year 1960 when Prof. Kaula joined the post of University Librarian and Head of the Department of Library Science at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. He continuously works on both the positions efficiently till 1971, when the Department of Library Science was separated from the University Library. Then, he got the position of first full time Professor in the Department and served as Head till his retirement. Here, he continuously worked for next 23 years till his retirement in the year 1983. Though, he formally left the Department in 1983, but he still taught various classes for another year as well. He also served as Dean, Faculty of Arts, BHU, Varanasi. [5]

## JOURNALIST

Apart from an excellent librarian, educator and orator, he was also one of the best journalists in the sense that he elevated the standards of well known journals in the field of Library Science. Kaula was attracted to library journalism by writing on library movement and the role of Kashmir in this movement. He published a series of articles, mostly in Urdu, in the Kashmir Press in 1946-47. During this period, he has written as many as 108 articles ranging from daily to weekly. One of his articles entitled “Kashmir Badal ki Zamana Badal Gaya” (change O Kashmir, the World has changed), became very popular. He also wrote poems on Libraries and Library movement. [6]

Prof. Kaula is the editor of excellent library journals such as ‘Herald of Library Science’ and ‘Information, Communication and Education’. Both journals carry contributions of authors from several countries. Their international scope is further reinforced by their extensive sections of foreign news items especially characteristic of the ‘Herald of Library Science’. [7] [8]

According to Mohinder Pratap Satija and Sukhdev Singh “to him goes the credit of founding six journals, and successfully running three journals of his own, now sponsored by the Trust bearing his name. His success in and far-reaching contributions to library journalism can be better understood in the perspective of his other achievements.” [9]

He also served as editor of “Sharda” a journal patronized by the Kashmiri Pandit Association, New Delhi from 1952 to 1954. [10]

He was also founder editor of a Hindi Library Science periodical entitled “Granthalaya Vijnana” in 1970. As a Dean, Faculty of Arts, BHU, Varanasi, he also edited its journal entitled “Research Journal of the Faculty of Arts”. It contains papers on Library Science as well as Research in Library Science. He also serves as founder editor of two reputed journals namely “Progress in Library and Information Science” and “International Information, Communication and Education” in different periods. [11]

He was also associated with other journals like “Library Today” and “Library Science” published by A.P. Public Library Association and Library Council, Jamshedpur respectively. [12]

## PUBLICATIONS

He was prolific author and extensively written on both national and international topics of interest. He has authored more than 60 books, over 400 scholarly papers, over 400 reviews, 43 bibliographies and 6000 notes. [13]

His major publications include:

- Treatise on Colon Classification appended with Select Bibliography on the Scheme: New Delhi, Sterling, 1985.
- Autobiography of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan: New Delhi, ABC Pub, 1992.
- The National Library of India: A Critical Study. Bombay, Somaiya Publications, 1970.
- Library Building, Planning and Design, 1971.
- Kashmir main Ilmi Inqalab (Educational Revolution in Kashmir)
- Tasvir-e-Kashmir (Mirror of Kashmir)
- Kashmir Speaks
- Kashmir Darshan (View of Kashmir)
- International and Comparative Librarianship and Information Systems, B.R.Publishing Corporation, 1996.
- Library Science Today: Ranganathan Festschrift, Asia Publishing House, 1965.
- Indian Library Literature: A Bibliography of Publications, Delhi Library Association, 1956.

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

As a true teacher of Library and Information Science, Prof. Kaula has a great love for professional associations to whom he is ever ready to give all kinds of help. Following are associations which are benefited by his intellectual mind: [14]

- Member, ILA, since 1946
- Member, Executive Council, ILA (1945-53 and 1956-62)
- Founder and General Secretary, DLA (1953-55)
- Vice President, DLA (1956-58)
- Vice President, GILA (1956-58)
- Founder Chairman, FILA
- Founder, Jammu and Kashmir Library Association
- President, IATLIS (1973-1984)
- Founder General Secretary, IATLIS (1969-1973)
- Patron, Indian Music Academy, Calcutta

- Patron, Indian College Library Association, Hyderabad and Delhi
- Patron, IATLIS
- Chief Patron, Library Council, Jamshedpur
- President, Second A. P. Public Library Conference, Hyderabad
- Chairman, Council of Literacy and Adult Education
- University Librarian, BHU, Varanasi
- Head, Department of Library and Information Science, BHU, Varanasi
- Dean, Faculty of Arts, BHU, Varanasi
- Emeritus Professor, Lucknow University, Lucknow
- UNESCO Expert and Consultant
- Counselor, International Council for Professional Education
- Chairman, Panel of Library and Information Science, UGC, New Delhi.

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

From very beginning of his career, Prof. Kaula has effectively participated in a large number of conferences, seminars, workshops and group discussions of professionals. Some such significant participation by Kaula includes: [15]

- Student Guide, All India Educational Conference (1942), Srinagar
- Member Delegate to various All India Library Conferences
- Founder Member, Library Research Circle, Delhi
- Director, Seminar on Library services in India and America, BHU, Varanasi
- President, Assam Library Conference, Guwahati
- Director Seminar on Public Libraries and Academic Libraries, All Assam Library Conference, Guwahati
- Director, All India Seminar on Library Classification, IASLIC, Trivandrum
- President, First Jammu and Kashmir Library Conference
- Director, Seminar on Library Services in Jammu and Kashmir State
- Director, All India Seminar on Education for Librarianship, Varanasi
- Director, Conference on “Planning of Library Services” and “Foundations of Library Classification” Cuba
- Founder, Research Circle on Library Science, Cuba
- Delegate, International Conference on Information Services, Tel Aviv
- President, U. P. Library Conference, Lucknow

- President, All Rajasthan College Libraries Seminar
- Guest Speaker, All India Seminar on National Integration, Hyderabad
- President, IASLIC Conference, Jaipur
- Chairman/ Director of various IATLIS Seminars
- Managing Editor, Annals, Bulletin and Granthalaya of the Indian Library Association, (1949-53)
- Editor, Library Herald of DLA, (1958-62)
- Editor, Herald of Library Science (1962)
- Editor, Granthalaya Vijnana(1970)
- Editor, International Information, Communication and Education(1982)
- Secretary, Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science (1951-61)

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

During his very long professional career, Prof. Kaula received numerous national and international awards and honours for his immense contributions in the field of Librarianship. However, the Government of India conferred upon him the top civilian award Padmashree in the year 2004, for his valuable contribution in the field of Library and Information Science. Besides, he was also the recipient of other international awards and medals such as Mundi Beneficio Medal (Brazil), Deutsche Bucherei Medal (Germany) and Commemorative Medal of Honour (USA). [16]

The other international and national honours and awards received by him are as follows:

- Felicitation by 17 professional organizations at Hyderabad in 1974.
- Indian library movement award in 1974.
- Special number of professional journals-Kaula number in 1975.
- Kaula Festschrift Volume in 1979.
- Plaque of Honor, International Biographical Institute, Cambridge in 1979.
- International roll of Honor, Plaque American Biographical Institute in 1983.
- Dimensions of Library and Information Science: Kaula Festschrift, Prof. Kaula Endowment for Library and Information Science.[17]



Prof Kaula receiving award from President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

## VISITS ABROAD

Prof Kaula in his very long professional career visited several countries on different occasions in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. He also delivered a series of lectures in the Library Schools of several countries including Cuba, Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Iran, Egypt, Israel, GDR, Hungary, Spain, Thailand, Malaysia, Mexico, Spain, Brazil, Germany, UK, USA, USSR and Ygoslovakia. [18][19]

He was Visiting Professor of seven American universities, University of Havana, Hebrew University, Jerusalem and selected universities of Canada, France, Denmark, Germany, GDR, Hungary,. Mexico, Spain, Thailand, UK and USSR.[20]

## ENDOWMENT AND AWARDS ON KAULA

In honour of Prof. Kaula, an endowment named Professor Kaula Endowment in Library and Information Science was instituted on March 13, 1975, the day Kaula was born. The endowment awards “Kaula Gold Medal” and a Citation to distinguished professionals of the World for their contributions in the field of Library and Information Science. Bernard I Palmer, Dr. Jesse H Shera, Iyyanki Venkata Ramanayya, Dr. Peter Lazar, Dr. Helmut Arntz, Prof. Mikhailov, Prof. P. Kirkagaad, Prof. Horst Kunze, Harry Campbell, Principal Frank Hogg, and Dr. Nasir Sharify were among the early recipient of the prestigious “Kaula Gold Medal” and Citation.

The Endowment has instituted Ranganathan-Kaula Award for Indian Librarians and Information Specialists in 1980. The first Ranganathan-Kaula Award for 1980 was conferred on Prof. S. Bashiruddin. The other recipients are Prof. A K. Mukherjee and Dr. I N Sengupta of the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Calcutta.[21]

## CONCLUSIONS

After going through Kaula’s life sketch and professional achievements, one can rightly described him as a Pioneer in the field of Library and Information Science. He did everything in his life for the accomplishment of this profession with passion, commitment and dedication. He was one of the most towering personalities among the founding fathers of Indian Librarianship.

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